

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for generating a list of channel favorites in an interactive television system, comprising:

5 receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

10 updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating includes adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating further includes incrementing a counter in a first channel view frequency field of the favorites table.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the favorites tables includes a favorites display preference.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising displaying a list of channels from the channel favorites table.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the list of channels is displayed according to the favorites display preference.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a viewer of the interactive television system.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating is performed if the calculated time difference is larger than a predefined length of time.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the predefined length of time is about ten seconds.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

13. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

receive a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

receive a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculate a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

update a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update includes adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update further includes incrementing a counter in a first channel view frequency field of the

favorites table.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the favorites tables includes a favorites display preference.

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17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, further comprising an instruction to display a list of channels from the channel favorites table.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the instruction to display includes an instruction to display the list of channels according to the favorites display preference.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 13, further comprising an instruction to identify a viewer of the first and second channels.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update is performed if the calculated time difference is larger than a predefined length of time.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the predefined length of time is about ten seconds.

22. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

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23. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

24. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

25. An apparatus for creating favorite channels in interactive television system, comprising:

means for receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

communicatively coupled to the means for receiving the first notification, means for receiving a second

notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

communicatively coupled to the means for receiving the second notification, means for calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications;

and

communicatively coupled to the calculating means,
means for updating a channel favorites table based on the
calculated time difference.

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26. An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an
interactive television system, comprising:

a channel favorites table capable to store channel
favorites of a viewer;

10 a generation engine communicatively coupled to the
channel favorites table and capable to receive a
notification, the notification indicating a channel
activity, the generation engine further capable to
calculate a time difference between receipt of
15 notifications and to update the channel favorites table
based on the calculated time difference; and

a display engine communicatively coupled to the
channel favorites table and capable to display contents of
the channel favorites table.

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27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel
favorites table is further capable to store a display
preference of a viewer.

28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the display engine is capable to display contents of the channel favorites table according to the display preference of a viewer.

5 29. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine and display engine are further capable to identify the viewer.

30. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine is further capable to filter channel changes based on the calculated time difference.

31. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine filters channel changes if the calculated time difference is less than about ten seconds.

32. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

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33. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel activity includes selecting a channel.

34. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel

activity includes viewing a channel.

35. A server that can be communicatively coupled to
interactive television system, comprising:

5 means for receiving, from a set top box, a first
electronic program guide notification, the first
notification indicating a selection of a first channel;
means for receiving, from the set top box, a second
electronic program guide notification, the second
10 notification indicating a selection of a second channel;
means for calculating a time difference between the
first and the second notifications; and
means for updating a channel favorites table based on
the calculated time difference.

36. An apparatus for creating favorite channels in an
interactive television system, comprising:

a processor;
a generation engine executable by the processor and
20 capable to generate a list including at least one favorite
channel based upon a selection of a channel; and
a display engine executable by the processor and
capable to enable the display of the list.

37. The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising:

a filter engine executable by the processor and
capable to select a channel to be included in the list.

5 38. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list includes a
plurality of channels listed based upon an associated
numeral of a channel.

39. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list includes a
10 plurality of channels listed based upon a viewing time of a
channel.

40. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list includes a
15 plurality of channels listed based upon an amount of
selection of a channel.

41. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the list is
associated with a first identification.

20 42. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the generation
engine is capable to generate a second list associated with
a second identification.

43. An apparatus for creating favorite channels in an

interactive television system, comprising:

a set top box including a processor, a generation engine executable by the processor and capable to detect a selection of a channel and capture information related to the selected channel, and a display engine executable by the processor and capable to enable the display of a list including at least one favorite channel;

a processing device communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to receive the captured information from the generation engine to generate the list.

44. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the processing device is capable to transmit a list including at least one favorite channel to the set top box to enable the display of the list.

45. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the processing device is capable to transmit a hypertext markup language (HTML) link to the set top box, where the HTML link is associated with a list including at least one favorite channel.

46. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the set top box further comprises a filter engine executable by the

processor and capable to select a channel to be included in the list.

47. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the list includes a
5 plurality of channels listed based upon an associated numeral of a channel.

48. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon a viewing time of a channel.

49. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the list includes a plurality of channels listed based upon an amount of selection of a channel.

50. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the list is associated with a first identification.

51. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the generation
20 engine is capable to generate a second list including at least one channel, the second list associated with a second identification.

52. A method of creating favorite channels in an

interactive television system, comprising:

capturing channel viewing data related to a channel
change event; and

generating a list including at least one favorite
5 channel based upon the captured channel viewing data.

53. The method of claim 52, further comprising:

analyzing the captured channel data to selectively add
a channel to the list.

54. The method of claim 52, further comprising:

displaying the list for viewing.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein the list includes a
plurality of channels listed based upon an associated
numeral of a channel.

56. The method of claim 54 wherein the list includes a
plurality of channels listed based upon a viewing time of a
20 channel.

57. The method of claim 54 wherein the list includes a
plurality of channels listed based upon an amount of
selection of a channel.

58. The method of claim 52, further comprising:
associating the list with a first identification.

5 59. The method of claim 52, further comprising:
generating a second list including at least one
channel; and
associating the second list with a second
identification.

60. An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium having stored thereon
instructions to:
capture channel viewing data related to a channel
change event; and
generate a list including at least one favorite
channel based upon the captured channel viewing data.

61. An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an
20 interactive television system, comprising:
means for capturing channel viewing data related to a
channel change event; and
communicatively coupled to the capturing means, means
for generating a list including at least one favorite

channel based upon the captured channel viewing data.

62. A method of displaying favorites channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

5 identifying a viewer;
determining a display preference of the identified viewer; and
displaying a list of favorite channels associated with the identified viewer, the list shown according to the display preference of the identified viewer.

63. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:

10 identify a viewer;
determine a display preference of the identified viewer; and
display a list of favorite channels associated with the identified viewer, the list shown according to the display preference of the identified viewer.

20 64. An apparatus for displaying favorites channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

means for identifying a viewer;

communicatively coupled to the identifying means,
means for determining a display preference of the
identified viewer; and

communicatively coupled to the determining means,
5 means for displaying a list of favorite channels associated
with the identified viewer, the list shown according to the
display preference of the identified viewer.

65. A method of creating favorites channels in an
interactive television system, comprising:

capturing channel viewing data related to a channel
change event;

transmitting the channel viewing data to a remote
processing device; and

generating, in the remote processing device, a list
including at least one favorite channel based upon the
channel viewing data.

66. The method of claim 65, further comprising:

20 transmitting, by the remote processing device, the
list for viewing.

67. The method of claim 65, further comprising:

transmitting, by the remote processing device, a

hypertext markup language (HTML) link associated with the
list.

68. The method of claim 65, further comprising:

5 analyzing the captured channel data to selectively add
a channel to the list.

69. The method of claim 65 further comprising:

displaying the list for viewing.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein the list includes a
plurality of channels listed based upon an associated
numeral of a channel.

71. The method of claim 69 wherein the list includes a
plurality of channels listed based upon a viewing time of a
channel.

72. The method of claim 69 wherein the list includes a
20 plurality of channels listed based upon an amount of
selection of a channel.

73. The method of claim 65, further comprising:

associating the list with a first identification.

74. The method of claim 65, further comprising:
generating a second list including at least one
channel; and
5 associating the second list with a second
identification.

75. An apparatus for creating favorite channels in an
interactive television system, comprising:

10 a first engine capable capture channel viewing data
related to a channel change event; and

15 a second engine communicatively coupled to the first
engine and capable to generate a list including at least
one favorite channel based upon the captured channel
viewing data.

76. A method for generating a list of channel favorites in
an interactive television system, comprising:

20 receiving, from an electronic program guide, a first
electronic program guide notification, the first
notification indicating viewing of a first channel;

receiving, from the electronic program guide, a second
electronic program guide notification, the second
notification indicating viewing of a second channel;

calculating a time difference between the first and
the second notifications;

prompting a viewer for authorization to update a
channel favorites list; and

5 if authorization is received, updating the channel
favorites list based on the calculated time difference.

77. A method for generating a list of channel favorites in
an interactive television system, comprising:

receiving, from an electronic program guide, a first
electronic program guide notification, the first
notification indicating selection of a first channel;

receiving, from the electronic program guide, a second
electronic program guide notification, the second
notification indicating selection of a second channel;

calculating a time difference between the first and
the second notifications;

if the calculated time difference is larger than a
predefined length of time, updating the channel favorites

20 list based on the calculated time difference

78. An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an
interactive television system, comprising:

a channel favorites table capable to store channel

favorites of a viewer;

a generation engine communicatively coupled to the
channel favorites table and capable to receive a
notification, the notification indicating a channel
5 activity, the generation engine further capable to
calculate a time difference between receipt of
notifications and to update the channel favorites table
based on the calculated time difference if the calculated
time difference is larger than a predefined length of time;
and

a display engine communicatively coupled to the
channel favorites table and capable to display contents of
the channel favorites table.

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